



Board of Barbering & Cosmetology

Barbering Fact Sheet

August 2004



CONSUMER INFORMATION SHEET

What is barbering?

- Barbering is the practice of shaving or trimming the beard, cutting the hair, and giving facial and scalp massages with oils, creams, lotions, or other preparations, either by hand or using mechanical appliances.
- Barbers are also trained in singeing, shampooing, arranging, dressing, curling, waving, chemical waving, hair relaxing, or dyeing the hair or applying hair tonics, and in applying cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, powders, oils, clays, or lotions to the scalp, face, or neck.

Do barbers need to be licensed?

- Yes, in California only state-licensed barbers in state-licensed salons or barbershops may legally perform barbering services. As of August 2004, there were more than 17,000 licensed barbers in California.

How is a barber different from a cosmetologist?

- Cosmetologists as well as barbers may perform most common services listed above. However, some services, such as shaving, can only be performed by barbers.

Are there any special rules about barber poles?

- Barbershops are most easily recognized by the traditional symbol known as the barber pole.
- It is an unfair business practice for barbershops or salons to display the barber pole if a barber is not employed at that location.



How should barbers clean their electric clippers?

- Like all other tools or equipment used on a client, electric clippers must be disinfected prior to each use. This includes detachable blades.
- Make sure your barber uses only clean, disinfected equipment on you during any service.